

RULE 15 - RULE VIOLATIONS

- 15-1** School administrators are responsible to familiarize their staff members, school board members, coaches, participants and parents with the IHSAA rules. The Rules and Regulations shall be available in each high school (and online at idhsaa.org) for reference by the general public.
- 15-2** When it comes to a principal's attention that an IHSAA rule may have been violated, the principal will conduct an investigation to determine if, in fact, a violation has occurred.
- 15-2-1** The principal will determine if a violation has occurred, and if so, notify the Executive Director.
- 15-2-2** If the principal determines that he/she is unable to conduct the investigation and decide the matter, he/she shall refer the matter to the Executive Director.
- 15-2-3** The Executive Director shall examine the facts and review information submitted by the principal of the school involved and other persons. The Executive Director shall then refer the matter to the Board of Directors or, if appropriate, to the District Board of Control for further review and determination.
- 15-3** Violations at State Tournaments The IHSAA shall have the right to initiate and conduct an investigation into reported violations of its By-Laws or Rules and Regulations by a member school, its employees, coaches, officials, students or any other party subject to the Rules and Regulations at playoffs and state tournament events.
- a. If the violation comes to the attention of tournament management after the tournament has begun, but before the conclusion of the tournament, the following guidelines shall be used:
1. For individual sports/activities (i.e. cross country, wrestling, swimming, tennis, golf, track, speech arts), the individual(s) shall be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the tournament. Any team points earned by ineligible participant(s) shall be vacated, and brackets (if applicable) will move forward with a bye. No games/contests will be replayed.
 2. For team sports/activities (i.e. soccer, football, volleyball, basketball, baseball, softball, cheer, dance), the team will forfeit the last game played, and the team will be able to continue without the ineligible player(s). The ineligible player(s) shall be removed from further competition in the tournament. No games/contests will be replayed. No team or individual awards shall be given to the violating team.
- 15-3-1** The Executive Director will provide a written notice of the alleged violation to the accused party. The notice shall contain a statement of the alleged violation and provide a date that the matter will be discussed by the Board of Directors. The accused party will be given the opportunity to be heard by the Board before a penalty, if any, is assessed. Following the hearing, the party shall be promptly notified in writing of the Board's decision.
- 15-3-2** If the accused party does not appear before the Board on the designated date, the Board of Directors or its authorized designee, shall determine the merits of the alleged violation. The party shall be promptly notified in writing of the Board's decision.
- 15-4** For violation of the rules, a student may be declared ineligible for participation in IHSAA sports/activities for such period as deemed appropriate, not to exceed one calendar year; a coach may be temporarily barred from coaching if the violation reflects an unethical, unsportsmanlike or general disregard of Association rules; a member school may be warned, fined, or suspended from membership, or placed on probation for a period deemed appropriate in the particular case.
- 15-5** If a student is ineligible according to IHSAA rules but is permitted to participate in interscholastic competition contrary to such rules, but in accordance with the terms of a court restraining order or injunction against his/her school and/or the IHSAA, and said injunction is subsequently voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed, or finally determined by the courts that injunctive relief is not or was not justified, the Board may take one or more of the following actions against such school in the interest of restitution and fairness to competing schools:
- a. Require that individual or team records and performances achieved during participation by such ineligible students shall be vacated or stricken.
 - b. Require that team victories shall be forfeited to opponent.
 - c. Require that team or individual awards earned by ineligible students be returned to the Association.

- 15-5-1** If a student is found to be ineligible according to IHSAA rules after the IHSAA sport season, but was allowed to participate in state and post district competition without a court order, the Board shall review the findings and may take action against the school and/or student in accordance with IHSAA Rules 15-3 and 15-4. The penalties assessed, if any, will be based on the merits of each individual case.
- 15-6** If a school, parent/guardian or student provides false information that creates eligibility for an individual in IHSAA competition, the IHSAA Board or District Board of Control shall review the findings and take action against the school and or student in accordance with IHSAA Rule 15-4. The penalties assessed, if any, will be based on the merits of each individual case.
- 15-7** Official interpretations of the rules and regulations shall be in writing from the Executive Director.